

Aviation Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
August 21, 2012 – Anchorage, Alaska
August 22 – 23, 2012 – Unalaska, Alaska

Meeting held at the Central Region Department of Transportation and Public Facilities building – Anchorage, AK and Grand Aleutian Hotel - Unalaska, AK

August 21st

Meeting called to order by Chairman Lee Ryan at 1:10 p.m.

PRESENT: Lee Ryan, Jim Dodson, Tom George, Steve Strait, Frank Neitz, Mike Stedman, Dave Karp, Tom Nicolos, Bob Hajdukovich, Ken Lythgoe

EXCUSED ABSENCE: Judy McKenzie

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Marc Luiken (DOT&PF), Steve Hatter (DOT&PF), Byron Huffman (FAA), Becky Iles (DOT&PF), Linda Bustamante (DOT&PF), Jessica Della Croce (DOT&PF), Megan Byrd (DOT&PF), Judy Chapman (DOT&PF), Todd Hanley (DOT&PF), Verne Skagerberg (DOT&PF), Richard Sewell (DOT&PF), Roger Maggard (DOT&PF), John Parrott (DOT&PF), Joy Journeay (Alaska Air Carriers Association), Jane Dale (Alaska Airports Association), Brad Sworts (Mat-Su Borough), Debbie Passmore (Mat-Su Borough), Dee Hanson (Alaska Airmens Association), Danny Seybert (PenAir), Archie Giddings (City of Wasilla),

JOINING BY PHONE:

MINUTES: Motion: Steve Strait moved to accept minutes with no changes. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Ryan – Welcomed all to the meeting; reviewed board’s agenda; and briefed the board on recent aviation news around Alaska.

AGENDA:

Statewide Aviation Issues: Deputy Commissioner Hatter updated the board on the following key topics with ensuing questions and comments noted:

- Akutan Airport– The project is on schedule. This is a very unique project, with a lot of operational challenges. DOT&PF has set up a working group, meeting twice a month with stakeholders. Currently DOT&PF is working on the AWOS. Akutan could be a future key divert airport for Dutch Harbor.
- Barrow, Deadhorse, Unalaska and Adak –
 - Potential usage changes at Adak and Barrow Airports potential runway to resources they are in a more visible category and may require new master plans as DOT&PF ramps up for future operations needs.

- Leasing space at the Unalaska and Deadhorse Airports – a master plan has just been finished for the Deadhorse airport. Potential lease spaces are available, but the cost to develop these spaces is very high, and the state has no plans at the moment to develop the land.
- Strategic Plan – DOT&PF is facing flat budgets this year. The current effort is to realign the building of new infrastructure and Maintenance and Operations within DOT&PF. The Map 21 initiative looks a lot like Service Based Budgeting, and requires projects using legislative funds to use higher levels of maintenance and preservation than historically have been applied.
- SDMI (Statewide Digital Mapping Initiative) – by the end of this summer we will be 1/3 done with the state. The roundtable held earlier this year in Washington DC had 20 federal agencies in one room. USGS will lead an executive steering group. Alaska is currently far behind other states with their digital mapping. We are hoping for a future Statewide GIS office under the Governor’s office that will be over all departments within the state. Tom George requested a briefing at a future meeting on the specific benefits of the initiative to aviation safety, specifically from 1:25,000 scale products.
- Little Diomedede – Spoke briefly about plans to provide Essential Air Service for Little Diomedede.
- SMS (Safety Management System) – Most places in the state already have SMS in place. FAA is looking for a scalable SMS plan for airports.
- GF Funding – Capital Projects – DOT&PF has been evaluating how GF funding would be used if it becomes available. DOT&PF is trying to build a prioritization process to assist with project ranking based on criteria such as economic development. Advantages to using GF funds would be:
 - DOT&PF can set the standards however it feels appropriate
 - Cheaper, faster and avoids federal processes
- Alaska International Airports System – Two Airports, One System
 - New logos to help with branding of the system
 - AIAS is a self sustaining system, 1.5% funded by GF for PERS, and 98.5% funded by user fees.
 - Signatory Carriers underwrite the fiscal health and in return they get a voice in the decision making process.
 - The current agreement expires in June, and AIAS is working hard to get a new lease in place.
 - Cargo traffic is seeing a global decline. This decline causes a decrease in revenue for the system requiring the system to raise rates and fees, and take further cost cutting measures.
 - Currently marketing to new carriers.
 - Both Airports are undergoing Master Plan Studies.

Mat-Su Borough Aviation Advisory Board:

The MSBAAB briefed the board on their recent resolutions.

- 12-04 A resolution of the Mat-Su Borough Aviation Advisory Board Recommending the Mat Su Borough Assembly reserve land at Seven Mile Lake for a future airport site.
- 12-06 A resolution of the Mat-Su Borough Aviation Advisory Board Recommending the Mat Su Borough Assembly support state-owned airports receiving their own entitlement funding.
- 12-07 A resolution of the Mat-Su Borough Aviation Advisory Board Recommending the Mat Su Borough Assembly support the Regional Airport System Plan (RASP), Phase II.
- 12-08 A resolution of the Mat-Su Borough Aviation Advisory Board Recommending the Mat Su Borough Assembly support capital improvement program funding and lease lot development at the Talkeetna Airport.
- 12-09 A resolution of the Mat-Su Borough Aviation Advisory Board Recommending priority aviation projects to be included in the Mat Su Borough Capital Improvement Program for Fiscal Year 2014-2019.
- 12-10 A resolution of the Mat-Su Borough Aviation Advisory Board in support of the Assembly requesting the state to create two new seats on the State Aviation Advisory Board: A MSB position and an Alaska Airports Association position.

They invited the Advisory Board's support to reserve land around 7-mile Lake for a future Seaplane base, as outlined in the Mat Su Aviation System Plan.

Essential Air Service

Rich Sewell briefed the board on possible changes to Essential Air Service recommendation process. The state is considering a preference to carriers that are Medallion members when submitting comments and recommendations to EAS. Members questioned tying to a single organization and suggested making a more generic safety program recommendation. The board agreed, but noted that there are no other such companies in Alaska providing the same type of certification.

Bob Hajdukovich offered that currently the State Travel Office requires carriers to be members of the Medallion Foundation.

Bypass Mail Study:

Jonathan King from Northern Economics gave a presentation on the Bypass Mail Study. He spoke to the possible economic impacts to the state and to the U.S. Postal Service if the system were to be discontinued. Members were invited to provide comments on the draft study report to Jessica.

Meeting was adjourned for the day at 5:15 pm

Day 2 – Unalaska

Travel day to Unalaska and afternoon tour of community with City officials.

Day 3 - Unalaska

Meeting was called to order at 8:57 am

Chairman Ryan – Welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked city officials for their hospitality and tour of the community.

Commissioner Luiken – Welcomed and thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and thanked staff for all of their hard work preparing for the meeting.

- DOT&PF is looking at a flat budget this year, especially on the Maintenance and Operations side.
- Nationally the federal government is 14 trillion dollars in debt and transportation is a discretionary item in the budget, making it easily cut.
- For the Alaska system to move forward we can't rely solely on federal funding
- Looking for creative ways to get funding and become independent.

FAA:

Byron Huffman gave a presentation on Runway Safety Areas (RSA), the driving forces, examples of crashes at airports with and without RSAs, and the construction and maintenance of RSAs.

- Needed at Part 139 Airports, because they typically service larger aircraft
- Designed for the size of the aircraft used at individual airports
- Reduce damage to aircraft
- Mandate is on Airport, not FAA

Maintenance and Operations Update:

Todd Hanley briefed the board on Maintenance Contracts in the villages.

- 135 contracts in place
- Range from \$5,000 - \$140,000 (the majority are between \$10,000-20,000)
- DOT&PF is having a hard time finding contractors
- Working with cities and villages to see if they can maintain their own system.

The maintenance manual is almost finished. Posters are currently in the works. Other ideas include Yupik translations and numerous pictures for contractors who have difficulty with English.

Roger Maggard told the board about the Department of Defense Innovative Readiness Training Program to help extend the runway at the Old Harbor Airport. The training exercise involves young soldiers making improvements to the airport so they are better

prepared for situations in war zones where a runway may need to be built. Alaska has very similar terrain to that in Afghanistan making Alaska an invaluable training resource. This a low-cost way to obtain improvements with little or no cost to the State of Alaska.

Land Use Compliance Part 5:

Becky Iles gave a presentation on Land Use Compliance issues and some history on the Unalaska Airport.

Alaska Aviation System Plan Status Update:

Jessica Della Croce shared a rough cut for the next System Plan video. She also gave an update on the Alaska Aviation System Plan.

Resolution Requests:

Tom George moved to approve a resolution supporting the Mat-Su Borough resolution for 7 Mile Lake Airport. Steve Strait seconded the motion, which was passed, as written by the board.

Tom George also moved to adopt a resolution that the state undertake a strategic plan for the rural airport system. Motion was seconded by Steve Strait. After some discussion on the goals and tasks involved with a strategic plan, the board adopted the resolution and established a committee tasked with determining what the goals of a strategic plan would be.

- Tom George
- Steve Strait
- Tom Nicolos
- Bob Hajdukovich
- Lee Ryan

Final Comments:

Mike Stedman said it was a good meeting, thanked our hosts and said it was eye opening to see rural locations first hand.

Bob Hajdukovich said knowledge is power, and a strategic plan for rural system will help DOT&PF learn about the system and will be worth the effort needed. He also said he looked forward to TSA joining at a future meeting.

Tom Nicolos feels that the meetings are getting more intense and cover a lot of information. He also hoped that the fall meeting will focus on goals for the winter Juneau meeting. He suggested that DOT&PF identify airports that score low on the APEB to lobby for capital funds, and also requested that a brief on the APEB be included in the fall meeting.

Steve Strait commented that big issues seem topical but they help the board look at the long range. He appreciates the focus on strategic planning that DOT&PF has adopted and thanked the commissioner for all of his hard work.

Jim Dodson thanked DOT&PF for the great meeting. He also said he wants to have a more defined purpose when heading to Capitol Hill in January.

Frank Neitz gave thanks to everyone. The community of Bethel appreciates the upcoming 24/7 service.

Jim Dodson agreed it was a great meeting, echoed the request for better direction when in Juneau this coming January.

Dave Karp thanked staff. He said it was refreshing to have an administration that doesn't make excuses, but gets mad and finds ways to make positive changes.

Tom George encouraged all to attend the Celebration of General Aviation on September 17th.

Steve Hatter gave thanks to the board members for their good advice and putting their heart and souls into their membership. He also said he appreciates their support.

Marc Luiken appreciated the opportunity to be with the board more than a couple of hours and thanked the board for their advice to the Governor through the DOT&PF.

Lee Ryan thanked DOT&PF and the Board for holding meetings in rural locations. The costs of rural meetings are higher, but the value is great.

Dates and locations of the next board meetings – Fairbanks, December 5th and 6th, and Juneau, January 23rd and 24th, 2013.

Meeting Recessed at 4:37 p.m.